

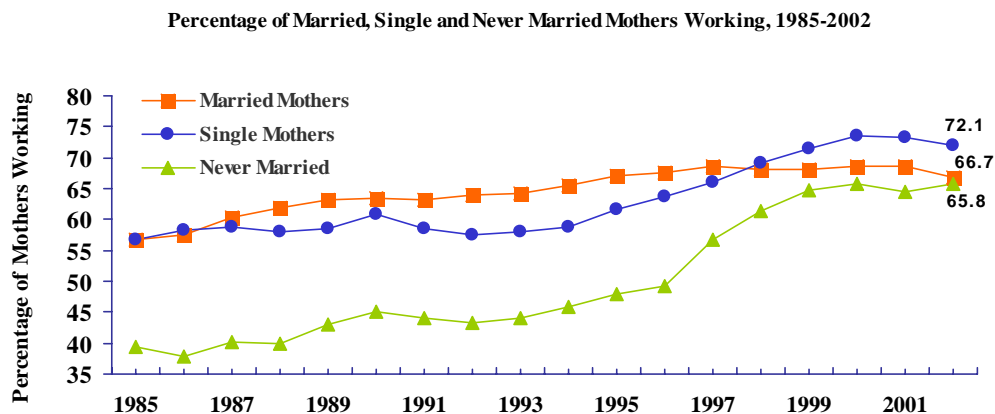
CHILD POVERTY

Welfare reform had an impact on child poverty. Child poverty has fallen substantially since States began implementing work-based welfare reform programs, and remains below pre-reform levels despite the 2001 recession.

- In 2003, the poverty rate for children had fallen 15 percent since 1995, the year before Congress enacted welfare reform.
 - The poverty rates for African-American and Hispanic children also have declined remarkably – 19 percent and 26 percent respectively since 1995.
- The poverty rate in 2001 for children in female-headed families was the lowest ever recorded.

Work and earnings by low-income mothers are up -- leading to the reductions in child poverty.

- Unprecedented increases have occurred in employment by low-income mothers heading families since TANF was enacted in 1996; many of these mothers either left welfare or were diverted from joining the welfare caseload.



Source: Gary Burtless, the Brookings Institution, 2002

- As a result, unprecedented increases have occurred in earnings by low-income mothers heading families; for example, single mothers on average, earned \$11.60 per hour in 2001, more than twice the minimum wage.